

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-2979
414 Fairmont Avenue
East Towson, Baltimore County
1930-1945
Private

The dwelling at 414 Fairmont Avenue was constructed between 1930 and 1945 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. The history of East Towson dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendants of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures.

Fronting west on a sloping grassy lot, this dwelling sits back from the road with a paved driveway and is surrounded with landscaping and several mature trees and shrubs. This one-and-a-half story Cape Cod house sits on solid poured concrete foundation and is of masonry construction clad with stucco. The three-bay façade features a center entry with a single-leaf wood glass and panel door featuring a soldier brick surround. The flanking 8/8 double-hung wood sash windows use rowlock sills, and the house features a soldier course water table. The two gable dormers contain 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows. A one-story section to the rear of the south elevation contains a basement level garage and is capped with a sloping gable roof. The garage has a grooved plywood single-leaf wood door. A one-story gable roof screened porch is located on the north elevation. The roof features turned molded wood cornices with a fascia board on the main section. The center-interior brick capped chimney rises above the asphalt shingle covered roof. A second-story shed-roof has been added to the rear elevation.

Inventory No. BA-2979

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic

other

2. Location

street and number 414 Fairmount Avenue not for publication

city, town	Baltimore	vicinity
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county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name	Not Available
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street and number Not Available

telephone Not Available

city, town	Not Available
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state

zip code

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Baltimore County Courthouse	liber	unknown	folio	unknown
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city, town	Towson	tax map	unknown	tax parcel	unknown tax ID number n/a
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count	
_____ district	_____ public	_____ agriculture	_____ landscape	Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> X </u> building(s)	<u> X </u> private	_____ commerce/trade	_____ recreation/culture	<u> 1 </u>	_____ buildings
_____ structure	_____ both	_____ defense	_____ religion	_____	_____ sites
_____ site		<u> X </u> domestic	_____ social	_____	_____ structures
_____ object		_____ education	_____ transportation	_____	_____ objects
		_____ funerary	_____ work in progress	<u> 1 </u>	_____ Total
		_____ government	_____ unknown		
		_____ health care	_____ vacant/not in use		
		_____ industry	_____ other:		
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory	
				<u> 1 </u>	

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2979

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Fronting west on a sloping grassy lot, this dwelling sits back from the road with a paved driveway and is surrounded with landscaping and several mature trees and shrubs. This one-and-a-half story Cape Cod house sits on solid poured concrete foundation and is of masonry construction clad with stucco. The three-bay façade features a center entry with a single-leaf wood glass and panel door featuring a soldier brick surround. The flanking 8/8 double-hung wood sash windows use rowlock sills, and the house features a soldier course water table. The two gable dormers contain 6/6 double-hung wood sash windows. A one-story section to the rear of the south elevation contains a basement level garage and is capped with a sloping gable roof. The garage has a grooved plywood single-leaf wood door. A one-story gable roof screened porch is located on the north elevation. The roof features turned molded wood cornices with a fascia board on the main section. The center-interior brick capped chimney rises above the asphalt shingle covered roof. A second-story shed-roof has been added to the rear elevation.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2979

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates 1930-1945 **Architect/Builder** Unknown

Construction dates 1930-1945

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The house at 414 Fairmont Avenue was constructed between 1930 and 1945 in the East Towson neighborhood of Baltimore County. East Towson is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, specifically the pre-Civil War development of an African-American neighborhood in a predominately white community. The history of this property dates from the purchase of one-and-a-quarter acres of land by Daniel Harris in September 1853. This is believed to be the first documented African-American landholding in Towson, and is among the oldest such ethnic enclave in Baltimore County. Further, manumitted slaves and/or descendents of former slaves, many of who were owned by Charles Ridgely, populated the neighborhood. Hampered by the low economic status of the residents, development in the 19th century was slow, increasing after the turn of the 20th century. The setting of the property, building styles, and construction materials were guided by the limited economic status of the residents and their desire to establish a neighborhood of their own without the assistance of white architects, builders, and craftsmen. By 1927, the community was ninety-five percent improved with single-family dwellings, social buildings, a school, and religious structures. Many of the current homeowners and tenants living in the neighborhood are descendents of the first African-American residents.

East Towson as a whole is representative of an important phase of architectural development in Baltimore County, illustrating the dilution of popular architectural styles to more efficiently meet the needs of the neighborhood, and the builders' untrained abilities to execute the fashionable ornamentation. Thus, East Towson provided lower cost housing in a more suburban neighborhood, rather than the urban setting their economic status typically perpetuated.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2979

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland.* Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County.* Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men.* Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys.* Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	Unknown	
Acreage of historical setting	Unknown	
Quadrangle name	Towson	Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The house is located at 414 Fairmont Avenue in East Towson in the Ninth District of Baltimore County.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	K. Baynard, R. Weidlich, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Traceries, Incorporated	date	January 2, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

East Towson: Planimetric Data



BA #: 2979
Name: House, 414 Fairmount Avenue
East Towson
Baltimore County



Prepared by:
Baltimore County Office of Planning
401 Bosley Avenue
Towson, Maryland 21204
June, 2001



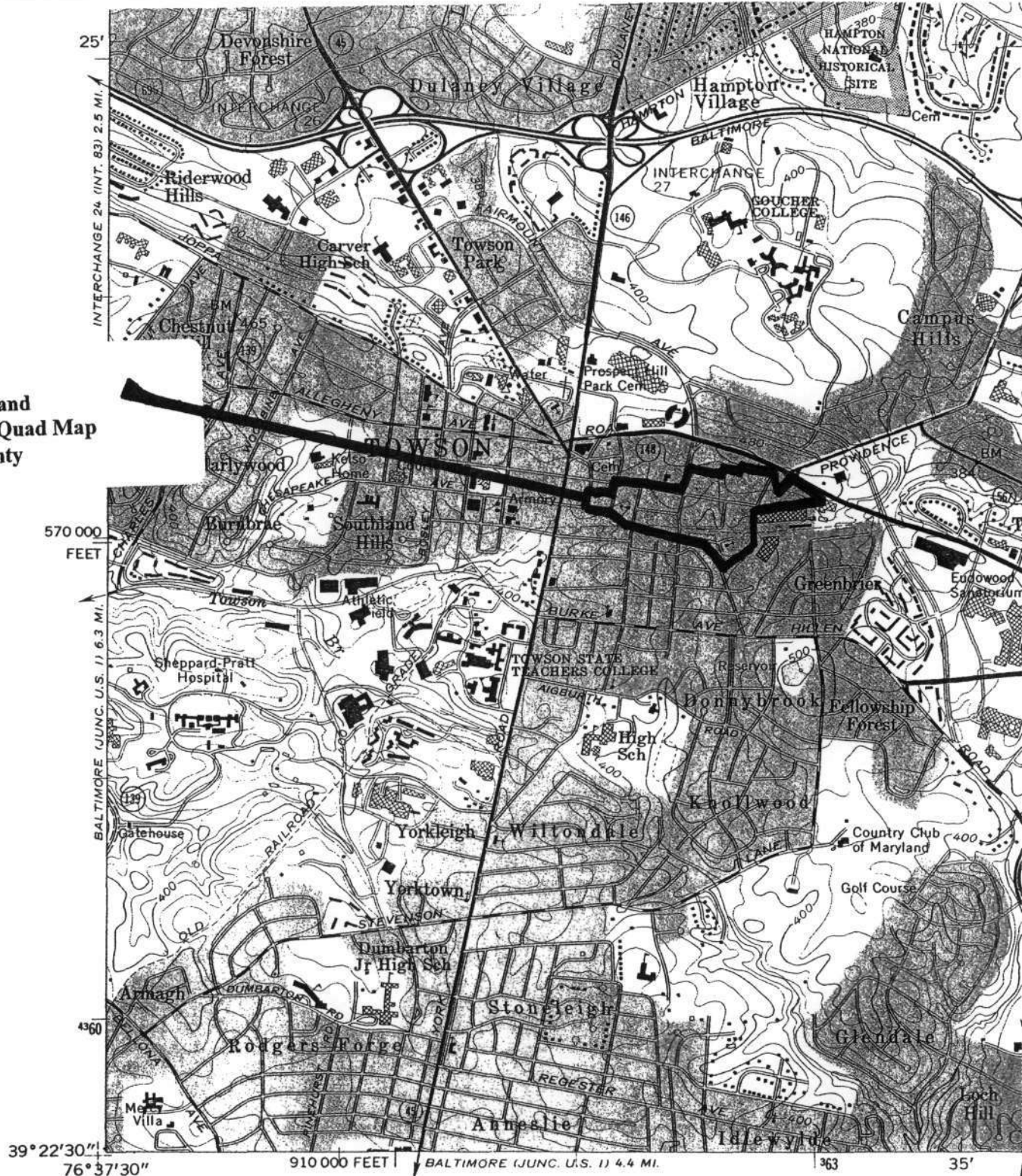
Scale
1 inch = 200 feet
1:2400
100 0 100 200 Feet

Legend

- | | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Paved Roads | Study Area Boundary | Hydrographic Features |
| Unpaved Roads | Buildings | |
| Paved Parking / Driveways | Vegetation | |

Data Sources:
Planimetric Data: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Parcel Boundaries: Baltimore County OIT GIS Services Unit (1:2400)
Study Area: Baltimore County Office of Planning (1:2400)
Coordinate System:
Maryland State Plane: NAD83/91 Horizontal Datum
Elevations in Feet: NAVD88 Vertical Datum
Date of Data Capture: March 1996
Scale of Data Capture: 1" = 100'

East Towson
Towson, Maryland
Towson USGS Quad Map
Baltimore County



(BALTIMORE WEST)
5662 SW

Mapped by the Army Map Service
Edited and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS, USC&GS, USCE, and Maryland
Bureau of Control Surveys and Maps

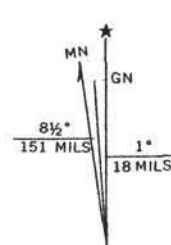
Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1943. Topography by planetable surveys 1944
Culture revised by the Geological Survey 1957

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Maryland coordinate system
1000-metre Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue

Red tint indicates areas in which only
landmark buildings are shown

Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from
aerial photographs taken 1966 and 1974. This information not
field checked

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas



UTM GRID AND 1974 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



BA-2979

HOUSE, 414 FAIRMONT AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

WEST ELEVATION

1 of 3



BA-2979

HOUSE, 414 FAIRMONT AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

SOUTHWEST CORNER

2 of 3



BA-2979

HOUSE, 414 FAIRMONT AVENUE

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

10/2001

MD-SHPD

NORTHEAST CORNER

3.P.3